REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 10-13, 15, and 19-23 are pending in the present application, Claims 1-6, 10-13, 15, and 19-23 having been amended, and Claims 9, 14, and 18 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendments to Claims 1-6, 10-13, 15, and 19-23 is found, for example, in Applicant's Fig. 2 and it corresponding description in the specification. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 10, 12-15, and 18-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kuwamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,617,518, hereinafter Kuwamoto) in view of Kakutani (U.S. Patent No. 6,817,794); and Claims 2 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kuwamoto in view of Kakutani, and further in view of Cloutier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,018,397, hereinafter Cloutier).

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1 as obvious over Kuwamoto and Kakutani, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to Claim 1 overcomes this ground of rejection. Amended Claim 1 recites,

> An image forming apparatus comprising:
>
> a storage unit configured to store a plurality of user identifiers, and for each user identifier there is also stored a corresponding recording medium size and a size of a substitute recording medium; and
>
> a processor configured to determine a user identifier corresponding to a print instruction and to execute the print instruction by automatically changing a size of a recording medium to be used as specified by the print instruction to the size of the substitute recording medium by accessing the storage unit to determine, for the user identifier corresponding to the print instruction, which substitute recording medium corresponds to the size of the recording

9

medium specified by the print instruction, when the size of
the recording medium specified by the print instruction is
not available.

Kuwamoto and Kakutani, taken alone or in proper combination, do not disclose or

suggest every element of amended Claim 1.

Fig. 6 of Kuwamoto shows a print program file. The print program file of Kuwamoto

does not store a plurality of user identifiers, and does not store for each user identifier, a

corresponding recording medium size and a size of a substitute recording medium.

Fig. 4 of Kuwamoto shows a print program management table. The print program

management table of Kuwamoto does not store a plurality of user identifiers, and does not

store for each user identifier, a corresponding recording medium size and a size of a

substitute recording medium.

The outstanding Office Action relies on col. 20, lines 36-47 of Kuwamoto as

describing a substitute recording medium. However, col. 20, lines 36-47 of Kuwamoto

merely describes using a paper size included in the print instruction. This section of

Kuwamoto describes switching cassettes when a next page to be printed is a different size of

the page that just finished printing. A change in the cassette, in accordance the paper size

specified by the print job, does not equate to storing a size of a substitute recording medium

in correspondence with a user identifier, wherein the substitute recording medium is used

with the recording medium specified by the print job is not available.

Kuwamoto does not teach or suggest the claimed "a storage unit configured to store a

plurality of user identifiers, and for each user identifier there is also stored a corresponding

recording medium size and a size of a substitute recording medium."

Furthermore, Kuwamoto does not determine a user identifier corresponding to a print

instruction, and does not change a size of a recording medium to be used as specified by the

print instruction by accessing the storage unit to determine, for the user identifier

corresponding to the print instruction, which substitute recording medium corresponds to the size of the recording medium specified by the print instruction.

While Fig. 24 of Kuwamoto shows that the print command file includes the user identifier, Kuwamoto does not have a processor that accesses a storage unit to determine, for the user identifier in the print command, which substitute recording medium corresponds to the size of the recording medium specified by the print command. Kuwamoto is devoid of any link between the user identifier in Fig. 24 and the description at col. 20, lines 35-41.

Thus, Kuwamoto does not disclose or suggest the claimed "a processor configured to determine a user identifier corresponding to a print instruction and to execute the print instruction by automatically changing a size of a recording medium to be used as specified by the print instruction to the size of the substitute recording medium by accessing the storage unit to determine, for the user identifier corresponding to the print instruction, which substitute recording medium corresponds to the size of the recording medium specified by the print instruction, when the size of the recording medium specified by the print instruction is not available."

Moreover, Kakutani does not cure the above-noted deficiencies in Kuwamoto. Col. 7, lines 10-18 of Kakutani describes an alternative table. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion that the alternative table has information corresponding to a plurality of user identifiers. Rather than specifying a substitute medium for different users, Kakutani provides an alternative paper size and paper type for a paper size and paper type specified by a print job based only on the size and type of the paper. This alternative paper size and paper type does not vary by user.[1] Moreover, Fig. 6 of Kakutani shows alternative table 20, and there is no user identifier section. There is only size and type.

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[1] *See*, for example, the abstract of Kakutani, and step 105 in Fig. 3.

Thus, there is no storing a plurality of user identifiers in correspondence with a recording medium size and a size of a substitute recording medium, and there is no processor that accesses a storage unit to determine, for the user identifier in the print command, which substitute recording medium corresponds to the size of the recording medium specified by the print command.

In view of the deficiencies in <u>Kuwamoto</u> and <u>Kakutani</u>, Applicant respectfully submits that a person of ordinary skill in the art could not properly combine theses references to arrive at the invention defined by Claim 1.
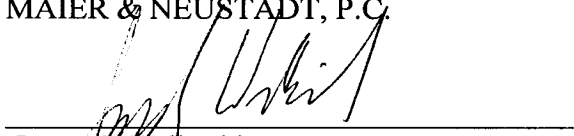
In view of the above-noted comments, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 (and any claims dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over <u>Kuwamoto</u> and <u>Kakutani</u>, taken alone or in proper combination. Claims 10, 19, 20, 22, and 23 recite elements analogous to those of Claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 10, 19, 20, 22, and 23 (and any claims dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over <u>Kuwamoto</u>, for at least the reasons stated for Claim 1.

Addressing each of the further rejections, each of the further rejections is also traversed by the present response as no teachings in any of the further cited references to <u>Cloutier</u> can overcome the above-noted deficiencies of <u>Kuwamoto</u> and <u>Kakutani</u>. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that those rejections be withdrawn for similar reasons as discussed above.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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